



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

January 2021

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The Church Office will be closed on January 1st.

Pastor Laura will be out of the office from Jan. 11th - Jan. 17th to continue studies for her Doctor of Ministries program.

Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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A Message from Pastor Laura

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

- 2 Timothy 3:16



You can read the Bible in one year. It takes about fifteen to twenty minutes a day. It includes reading two chapters of the Old Testament a day, and one chapter of the New Testament a day. And it is a discipline that you are completely capable of completing!

Would you join this challenge with me?

I am inviting you to join me in The Year of the Bible 2021. Beginning January 1, 2021, we will start together at Genesis 1. Daily readings will be posted in our bulletin, Messenger, website, and social media. Our weekly worship services, when I am in the pulpit, will feature a Scripture we will have read that week. Adult Sunday School will reflect together and study together the Scriptures we have read throughout the week. We will even have fun activities throughout the year to celebrate our progress along the way.

If you would like to be a part of The Year of the Bible, call the church office or send us an email so that we may add you to our The Year of the Bible registration. This is for recording purposes, so we may know who is participating in the reading so we may encourage you along the way.

Additionally, there are books that you may purchase to guide you along your way. The Year of the Bible Guide costs \$9.00 and will be placed in the bins behind the Findley Hall entrance. This guide is not necessary for participation but does provide you with your own resource and makes the process easier.

If you have questions about The Year of the Bible, please email me at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, 'A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.' I hope you will join me as we seek to know God's Word better, together!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Laura

January Worship

You can watch a video of our Sunday services by going to our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA.

While we are closed, the video will be available on Sunday mornings by 10:15 am. Once we re-open, videos for our regular Sunday services will be available for viewing on the Monday after the service.

Pastor Laura will be away for our Service on **January 3rd**. Delivering the sermon for Pastor Laura will be Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates of Southwestern PA.

On **January 10th**, we will have a guest speaker, Kelly Willard of Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). The Mission Commission introduced us to CCO in our September 2020 Messenger. If you would like to read the article again, you can access the September Messenger on our website: <https://www.shupchurch.org/newsletter>

On **January 17th**, Pastor Laura will be away for her Doctor of Ministries program. Our guest speaker for this service will be Michelle Snyder speaking on the Malawi Partnership.

Communion Sunday this month will be held during our **January 10th** worship service. Please have bread and juice/wine on hand when you watch the video if you would like to participate in communion.

As a reminder, a copy of our weekly bulletins can be found on our website by clicking on the "Weekly Bulletin" tab on our home page.

Congregational Meeting

The Session of Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church has called for our annual congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24th. The meeting will take place via Zoom.

We will inform the congregation of the time of the meeting closer to the 24th. The link for the meeting will be posted to our events page and calendar once the time has been set.

A copy of our Annual Report will be posted to our website prior to the meeting. We will inform you in one of our weekly email blasts when it is available.

The purpose of our annual meeting will be:

- To hear and receive the reports of the commissions and organizations of the churches.
- To elect Elders and Deacons.
- To elect members to the standing Nominating Committee.
- To receive the budget.
- To approve any changes in the Pastor's Terms of Call.
- To hear and approve the report of the Corporation.
- To elect minute readers for the congregation/corporation meeting.
- To act on any other business appropriately brought before the congregation.



Fellowship Hour

Every Sunday - 11:30 am - via Zoom

Join Pastor Laura every Sunday for Fellowship hour at 11:30 am via Zoom. Don't miss out on fun conversations with your church family. In December everyone showed their favorite Christmas ornament, wore their Christmas sweaters and shared a Christmas memory.

The link to connect to the meeting can be found on the Events Page on our Website.

Join us in January to see what Pastor Laura has planned!

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

By the time this newsletter reaches you, a Christmas season unlike any other is drawing to a close. I know we all missed singing our beautiful Christmas Carols and having our choirs and guest musicians sharing their wonderful music with us throughout the season. However, many thanks to our Campanile Bell choir who recorded their anthems to use for our worship videos, as well as to the families who helped with the lighting of our Advent Wreath during the season. Thanks also to Dave Petty, Keith Yanda, and Ryan Gracey for recording some special music to use for our Christmas Eve service. And how can we ever say enough thanks for the video artistry and editing by Ryan Gracey – for pulling together our liturgy recordings with the added music tracks from years' past. It was truly a group effort to try to bring meaningful Advent and Christmas services to share with our church family throughout the season!

If you haven't already watched the Virtual Singing Christmas Tree concert in which some of our choir members were participants, you can still view that recording by going to our Facebook page or our SHUP website. You can also access the concert by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.shupchurch.org/music>.

Once at this site, click on the link called "Let There Be Christmas" to view the single anthem that we participated in. If you'd like to watch the full, hour-long concert, just click on the link that says "To view the

concert in its entirety." It's never too late to watch a beautiful Christmas concert!

I know that our choir family has certainly missed gathering in 2020 to sing together and to offer beautiful music to the congregation. We still don't know how long it will be before we can meet together again. However, many thanks for your continued loyalty to SHUP and to our music program. May God be with us all as we walk into 2021 and await His timing of when we can gather together once again to sing His praises!



Mission News

SHUP Baby Shower

HELLO NEIGHBOR, our newest mission which works to improve the lives of local refugees and immigrants by matching them with dedicated neighbors and serves them with guidance and support for their new lives, has asked us to help provide "Baby Boxes" for new mothers and babies. **Think of it as a SHUP baby shower.** We have not had one in a long time. We cannot party in person, but we can contribute in a significant way. Will you please consider gifting these folks with any of the following:

- **Winter baby clothes (newborn to 6 months)**
- **Winter baby hats**
- **Winter baby socks**
- **Nursing mother nipple cream & pads**
- **Baby blankets**

These gifts should be new. You may drop your them in the collection box by Findley Hall door. They will be retrieved daily. This collection will run from **December 26 through January 7.**

If you are unable to shop for these supplies and would like to donate money, please contact Jody Colby at jodycolby@verizon.net or Beth Romig at wisteria7@verizon.net and they will do the shopping for you.

Thank you for your continuing generosity during a time when so many have so little.



Deacons



At Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church, deacons are the “arms of Christ,” serving in a variety of ways; reaching out with their arms to greet fellow worshippers on Sunday morning, taking the chancel flowers to people who need to be brought cheer, preparing and delivering meals to those recovering from illness or surgery, and collecting/delivering food donations to SHIM.

We wanted to remind you during this time and always, they are here for you. If you or someone you know has a need and you think the Deacons can help, please reach out to us. You can contact Maralee Williams, Deacon Moderator with any needs or requests at:

maraleend9094@gmail.com

We serve the Lord with gladness!!!

The Year of the Bible

Pastor Laura would like to read through the Bible with you in 2021. You are invited to join her on this journey beginning January 1st! Daily readings will be posted in our bulletin, Messenger, on our website, and to our social media.

If you would like to be a part of “The Year of the Bible,” call the church office at (412) 561-6261 or send us an email at:

sunsethillschurch@gmail.com

We will add your name to our “The Year of the Bible” registration. This will let Pastor Laura know that you plan on participating. She may reach out from time to time to check in with you to see how you are doing. Of course, if you have questions, need help or just some plain old encouragement to keep going, you can contact Pastor Laura directly at any time at:

revlaurastrauss@gmail.com

For an in-depth discussion of the readings, join Pastor Laura for Adult Sunday school every week. The readings will also be incorporated into our Sunday services.

“The Year of the Bible” guides will also be available for purchase. The cost is \$9.00. They will be in the bins behind the Findlay Hall entrance. (Just take a book and leave a check in the bin). You do not need to purchase the guide to participate, but you may find it useful along the way.

We hope you will join Pastor Laura in 2021 for “The Year of the Bible” and are excited to go on this Biblical journey!

Daily “Year of the Bible” Readings January 2021

Jan. 1 Genesis 1, 2/Matthew 1
 Jan. 2 Genesis 3, 4/Matthew 2
 Jan. 3 Genesis 5, 6/Matthew 3
 Jan. 4 Genesis 7, 8/Psalms 1,2
 Jan. 5 Genesis 9-11/Matthew 4
 Jan. 6 Genesis 12, 13/Matthew 5
 Jan. 7 Genesis 14, 15/Psalms 3, 4
 Jan. 8 Genesis 16, 17/Matthew 6
 Jan. 9 Genesis 18, 19/Matthew 7
 Jan. 10 Genesis 20, 21/Matthew 8
 Jan. 11 Genesis 22, 23/Psalms 5, 6
 Jan. 12 Genesis 24, 25/Matthew 9
 Jan. 13 Genesis 26, 27/Matthew 10

Jan. 14 Genesis 28, 29/Psalms 7, 8
 Jan. 15 Genesis 30, 31/Matthew 11
 Jan. 16 Genesis 32, 33/Matthew 12
 Jan. 17 Genesis 34-36/Matthew 13
 Jan. 18 Genesis 37, 38/Psalm 9
 Jan. 19 Genesis 39, 40/Matthew 14
 Jan. 20 Genesis 41, 42/Matthew 15
 Jan. 21 Genesis 43, 44/Psalm 10
 Jan. 22 Genesis 45, 46/Matthew 16
 Jan. 23 Genesis 47, 48/Matthew 17
 Jan. 24 Genesis 49, 50/Matthew 18
 Jan. 25 Exodus 1, 2/Psalms 11,12
 Jan. 26 Exodus 3, 4/Matthew 19
 Jan. 27 Exodus 5, 6/Matthew 20
 Jan. 28 Exodus 7, 8/Psalms 13, 14
 Jan. 29 Exodus 9, 10/Matthew 21
 Jan. 30 Exodus 11, 12/Matthew 22
 Jan. 31 Exodus 13, 14/Matthew 23



January Events

Adult Sunday School

8:15 am

Starting in January our Sunday school class will focus on “The Year of the Bible” and what we have read that week. To learn more about “The Year of the Bible,” please see the article on page 4.

This class will continue using Zoom. *No class on Jan. 17th.*

Sunday Worship

10:15 am

Please check our website to see if we will have in person worship or continue posting a video of the service to our YouTube channel. If we do not have worship in the sanctuary, you can access the video on Sunday morning at 10:15 am by going to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA,

You can get a copy of the bulletin by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website www.shupchurch.org.

If we are able to gather in the sanctuary and you are still not able to join us, the video will be posted on the Monday after the service.

Fellowship Hour

Sunday’s - 11:30 am - Zoom

Join your church family for fellowship via Zoom. Feel free to have a snack or eat your lunch while joining in lively conversations. Check our events page to get the Zoom link to join in the fun.

Youth Group

Sunday’s - 6:30 pm

All youth are invited to join us for Youth Group. Please be sure to check the website to see if we will be meeting in person or using Zoom. If you have any questions, please contact Tori Vernacchio at vernacchiov@gmail.com or Sarajane Obarsky at sgracey08@gmail.com.

Youth Group will meet on Jan. 3rd & Jan. 17th.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday’s - 1:00 pm

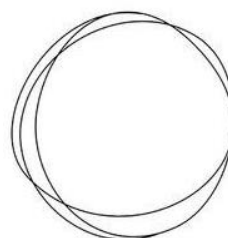
This class will continue meeting using Zoom. They will begin the 5-week study of “The Mission of Jesus” by Ray Vander Laan on January 4th. Please watch the videos on Study Gateway before class.

Please contact Evelyn Lape at (412)531-9856 if you would like to join this class and/or to have the Zoom link sent to you.

Kid’s Club

Wednesday’s - 4:30 pm

First meeting for 2021 will be held on January 20th. All kids in K-5th are invited to join Pastor Laura for fun in learning about Jesus. Please check our website to see if we have resumed gathering in person in Findley Hall or if we will continue to meet using Zoom.



Prayer Circle

We will be continuing our prayer circle in 2021. Every week we will pray for 2 members (be it family or individuals). We started at the

beginning of the directory in September of last year and will continue until we reach the end and then repeat. This is a time of prayer for our friends and families. We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

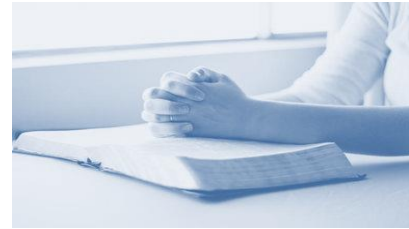
<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Praying for:</u>
Jan. 3 rd	Ryan Gracey Rev. Dr. William & Shelby Gracey
Jan 10 th	Dave & Carla Greenfield David & Karen Heim
Jan. 17 th	Kailey & Lyla Rose Hepburn & Anthony Siorentini Karl Hetrick
Jan. 24 th	The Hoffman Family; Richard, Lynda, Garth, Orion & Declan The Hughey Family, Thomas, Janeen, Zachary & Joseph
Jan. 31 st	The Huston Family, David, Liz & Jane Thomas & Nancy Junker



**January Birthdays
& Holidays**

1 Happy New Year!

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 Joe Hughey | 24 Lori Matson |
| 11 Keith Yanda | 26 Dottie Smith |
| 14 Beth Romig | 27 Shelby Gracey |
| 15 Bernie Berklich | 28 Violet Zeglin |
| Laura Oknefski | 30 Patrick Oknefski |
| 20 Jackie Elborne | 31 William Stimmel |
| | Amanda Zeglin |

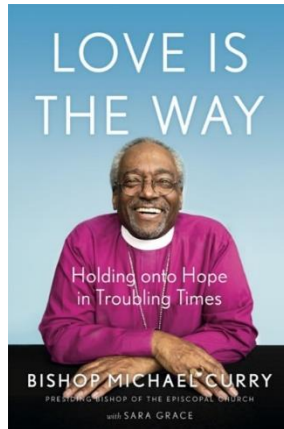


Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline

**Sunset Hills Book Club
January Book of the Month
January 28th - 7:00 pm
Love is the Way by
Bishop Michael Curry**

As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, "Love Is the Way" shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.



The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity. (Amazon Book Review)

The Book Club will meet using Zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, contact Pastor Laura to have the link sent to you:

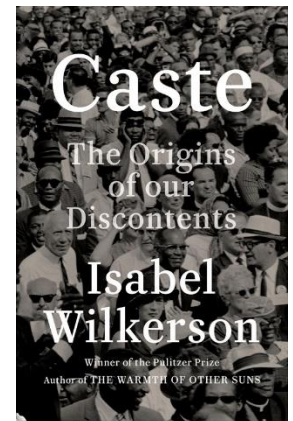
revlaurastrauss@gmail.com

**Save the Date
Feb. 25th
7:00 pm - via Zoom**

Join Pastor Laura for the February 2021 book of the month:

Caste
By

Isabel Wilkerson



Dear Shup Family,

My deepest thanks for all of the support I have received since my fall! Your prayers, cards, telephone calls and flowers are much appreciated.

I am healing well - at least partly due to your well-wishes.

*Sincerely,
Ray Bowman*

**Thank
you**